IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A data input device, comprising:

first, second, third and fourth terminals;

plural keys, said keys being arranged in at least two rows;

a first ohmic resistor, a first end of said first ohmic resistor forming the third terminal of the data input device and a second, opposite, end of said first ohmic resistor forming the fourth terminal of the data input device; and

a plurality of unidirectional position detectors, each unidirectional position detector being associated with one of said at least two rows of keys, respectively, each of the plurality of unidirectional position detectors including

a first input connection, a second input connection, and an output connection, and

at least one voltage divider sensor having a second ohmic resistor extending substantially along said one of said at least two rows of keys associated with said unidirectional position detector, a first end of said second ohmic resistor forming the first input connection of said unidirectional position detector, and a second, opposite, end of said second ohmic resistor forming the second input connection of said unidirectional position detector, wherein

the output connections of each of the plurality of unidirectional position detectors are connected to said first ohmic resistor at different locations between said first and second ends of said first ohmic resistor, and

the first input connections of each of the plurality of unidirectional position detectors are connected together to form said first terminal of the data input device and the second input connections are connected together to form said second terminal of the data input device.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first ohmic resistor includes a strip of resistive material.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein said first ohmic resistor includes a series layout of a plurality of discrete resistors, said output connections of the unidirectional position detectors being connected to the series layout alternatingly between said plurality of discrete resistors.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A data input device, comprising:

first, second, third and fourth terminals;

plural keys, said keys being arranged in at least two rows;

a first ohmic resistor, a first end of said first ohmic resistor forming the third terminal of the data input device and a second, opposite, end of said first ohmic resistor forming the fourth terminal of the data input device; and

a plurality of unidirectional position detectors, each unidirectional position detector being associated with one of said at least two rows of keys, respectively, each of the plurality of unidirectional position detectors including

a first input connection, a second input connection, and an output connection,

a second ohmic resistor, a first end of said second ohmic resistor forming the first input connection and a second, opposite end of said second ohmic resistor forming the second input connection, and

a plurality of discrete switches, said plurality of discrete switches being connected on a first side to the output connection of the position detector and on the other side to said second ohmic resistor at different locations between the first and second input connections of the position detector, wherein

the output connections of the unidirectional position detectors are connected to said first ohmic resistor at different locations between said first and second ends of said first ohmic resistor, and

the first input connections of said unidirectional position detectors are connected together to form said first terminal of the data input device and the second input connections are connected together to form said second terminal of the data input device.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said second ohmic resistor includes a strip of resistive material.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said second ohmic resistor includes a series layout of a plurality of discrete resistors, said switches being connected to the series layout alternatingly between said plurality of discrete resistors.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein the voltage divider sensor of each of said plurality of unidirectional position detectors includes,

conducting lines extending from the second ohmic resistor and arranged at a certain distance from one another,

a comb-like conductor, whose teeth are arranged in an interdigital manner between said conducting lines, and

an activation layer made of semiconducting material, wherein

the comb-like conductor is connected to the output connection of the respective unidirectional position detector and the second ohmic resistor is connected between the two input connections of the respective unidirectional position detector.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second ohmic resistor is a nonlinear resistor.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A data input device, comprising:

first, second, third and fourth terminals;

plural keys, said keys being arranged in at least two rows;

a first ohmic resistor, a first end of said first ohmic resistor forming the third terminal of the data input device and a second, opposite, end of said first ohmic resistor forming the fourth terminal of the data input device; and

a plurality of unidirectional position detectors, each unidirectional position detector being associated with one of said at least two rows of keys, respectively, each of the plurality of unidirectional position detectors including

a first input connection, a second input connection, and an output connection,

voltage divider-like sensors in a form of a voltage divider, said voltage divider-like sensors being laid out in series, each of said voltage divider-like sensor including,

a second ohmic resistor extending substantially along the row of keys,

conducting lines extending from the second ohmic resistor and arranged at a certain distance from one another,

a comb-like conductor, having teeth arranged in an interdigital manner between said conducting lines, and

an activation layer made of semiconductor material, wherein

the output connections of the unidirectional position detectors are connected to said first ohmic resistor at different locations between said first and second ends of said first ohmic resistor, and

the first input connections of said unidirectional position detectors are connected together to form said first terminal of the data input device and the second input connections are connected together to form said second terminal of the data input device.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the second ohmic resistor of the voltage divider-like sensor is a nonlinear resistor.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

at least one third ohmic resistor wired between said first ohmic resistor and the respective terminal of the data input device, said third ohmic resistor being short-circuitable with aid of a bypass circuit including a switch.

Claim 28 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

at least one third ohmic resistor wired between said second ohmic resistor and the respective terminal of the data input device, said third ohmic resistor being short-circuitable with aid of a bypass circuit including a switch.

Claim 29 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:

at least one third ohmic resistor wired between said second ohmic resistor and the respective terminal of the data input device, said third ohmic resistor being short-circuitable with aid of a bypass circuit including a switch.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising:

at least one series layout of a ~~fourth~~ third ohmic resistor and of a switch, said series layout being wired in parallel to said first ohmic resistor.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The device as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

at least one series layout of a ~~fourth~~ third ohmic resistor and of a switch, said series layout being wired in parallel to said first ohmic resistor.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein at least two discrete switches are disposed at a distance such that alternate or simultaneous actuation of the two discrete switches is possible using a single control element.

Claim 34 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein at least two voltage divider-like sensors are disposed at a distance such that alternate or simultaneous actuation of the two voltage divider-like sensors is possible using a single control element.

Claim 35 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 25, wherein virtual keys are defined for said voltage divider-like sensor by associating a certain range of resistance with each of the keys, and wherein at least two keys are defined in such a way as to be physically disposed at a distance such that alternate or simultaneous actuation of the two keys is possible using a single control element.

Claim 36 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 17, wherein at least two unidirectional position detectors are disposed at a distance such that alternate or simultaneous actuation of the two position detectors is possible using a single control element.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

Claim 38 (Previously Amended): The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said discrete resistors are disposed on a coupling tag of a flexible keyboard at a location which is not subject to a deformation.